

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 555

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections

4 on February 16, 2021)

5 (Patrons Prior to Substitute--Delegates Herring and Jones [HJ 546])

6 Proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to qualifications
7 of voters and the right to vote; persons not entitled to vote.

8 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, a majority of the members elected
9 to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same
10 hereby is, proposed and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next
11 general election of members of the House of Delegates for its concurrence in conformity with the
12 provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

13 Amend Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

14 ARTICLE II

15 FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS

16 Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

17 In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a
18 citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth
19 in this section, and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. ~~No~~ Every person who meets these
20 qualifications shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, and such right shall not be
21 abridged by law, except that no person who has been convicted of a felony shall be-qualified-entitled to
22 vote-unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. As
23 prescribed by law during any period of imprisonment, no person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent
24 shall be-qualified to vote until his competency has been reestablished and no person who has been
25 adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall
26 be entitled to vote until his capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law.

The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

37 Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be
38 permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

#